

**NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT**

in the

**Administrative County of Cambridgeshire**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**Including the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector**

for

**1955**





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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22

\*Rateable Value: £134,732

\*Estimated sum represented by a penny rate: £500

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book: 7,096

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,190

Census Population 1951: 20,220

\*(based on new Valuation Lists, 1.4.56)

Birth Rate	..	..	14·6
(Corrected) ..	..		16·0
Death Rate		..	10·4
(Corrected) ..			8·8
Infant Mortality Rate			27·2





## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### CHAIRMAN

Councillor C. W. L. Woollard.

### COUNCILLORS

J. W. Aves (to May, 1955).

H. R. Baker.

J. P. Clark (from May, 1955).

J. T. Cowley, J.P. (from May, 1955).

A. C. Hardy (died February, 1956).

W. Jackson (from May, 1955).

A. S. Kent (to May, 1955).

F. Murfet.

J. L. Newman (to May, 1955).

H. Palmer.

J. G. A. Paul (from May, 1955).

C. C. Petch, J.P.

H. J. Sadler.

C. F. Sargeant.

O. Spooner (retired April, 1955).

A. H. Trinder (to May, 1955).

Rev. M. F. Williams (retired May, 1955).

To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated November 23rd, 1955, and the information requested follows closely that set out in Circular 28/54, December 15th, 1954.

The mid-year population of the district is 20,190, being 30 persons less than the similar figure in 1951, which was virtually the same as the 1951 census figure. Nevertheless in the years 1951/1955 there has been an excess of 347 births over deaths, i.e. the population has experienced a natural increase of that number. That this is not reflected in the total population figure indicates that there has been emigration from the district in the order of at least 377 persons during the last five years.

The birth rate for 1955 is 16.0 against 17.1 births per thousand population last year. The death rate has also fallen from 9.8 to 8.8 deaths per thousand population and the infant mortality rate is down from 44.6 to 27.2 infant deaths per thousand live and still births. The still birth rate on the other hand has doubled and exceeds the national figure.

With regard to infectious disease, the year was notable for a large epidemic of measles. There also occurred two incidents concerning paratyphoid fever which are described in the text.

The completion of the slum clearance survey requested by section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, has revealed some 357 houses unfit for human habitation and requiring demolition during the next five years: it is estimated that a further 150 will require to be dealt with. Close liaison between the Public Health and Housing Committees will be needed to formulate plans for putting into operation schemes to replace these unfit properties. In such schemes the housing needs of the elderly should be kept constantly in mind. Population projections indicate that the increase in the more elderly members of the community will continue for many years, perhaps to the end of the century. The need for accommodation suitable to the existing and expected population structure needs thoughtful and bold planning. The Council's intention to build a pilot unit of special bungalows for old people is most welcome.

At the end of the year, immediately after the Christmas recess, new food and drugs legislation was received by the Council. This long awaited revision and consolidation of pre- and post-war legislation has at last put upon a rational footing power to raise the food hygiene standards in this country. A great deal of work will now have to be done in the field of food hygiene, both on the structural side of premises and the education of food handlers. A considerable amount of responsibility for clean food is now placed squarely upon the shoulders of the individual food handler. In the past, good relations and co-operation have been enjoyed with the food trades, and since it is understood that the individual organisations are in full support of the legislation it is anticipated that the raising of standards will be able to be smoothly undertaken. A major difficulty foreseen is the education of the individual; it is unfortunate that generally in the community there is a lack of understanding of the problems of food hygiene; for example there is often great alarm about the handling of bread which is an aesthetic rather than a scientific matter, since bread has hardly ever been incriminated as a means of spreading disease. On the other hand, little is said about the fingering of food like brawn, ham and tongue, which will not receive further cooking. It would, I think, be true to say that a community enjoys the food hygiene standards it deserves; if individuals maintain their custom at premises where food is handled unhygienically then they have only themselves to blame.

One of the more difficult social medical problems today is that of the so-called "problem family." It was a welcome idea when in October the county welfare officer convened a meeting of officers of all the sanitary authorities interested in this problem, and in this connection the recommendations of the Housing Management Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee in their sixth report (Unsatisfactory Tenants) are most pertinent. The possession by the Council of functional accommodation in which education in household management can be given in appropriate cases is worthy of consideration, bearing in mind that the County Council's temporary accommodation for the homeless is strictly for emergencies. It is realised that there exists a hardcore of problem families for which little can be done, but these cases are few; there are a number who respond to help and guidance and can be integrated into the community after a period of social education.



The Soham sewerage scheme has proceeded satisfactorily during the year, and it is hoped that by mid-1956 the sewers will be in use. In April sanction was given for the Bottisham part of the Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck scheme to be started, and good progress has been made.

Small extensions to the Council's comprehensive water scheme continue to be made and further properties connected. It is thought that attention might well now be given to ensuring that more properties actually have the water piped into the premises and thus enable existing standpipes to be dispensed with.

From the summary of inspections made by your sanitary inspectors it will be seen that approximately fifty per cent of the total visits was in connection with food or food premises; that is, in connection with the overall supervision of food hygiene in the district.

It is with gratitude that, on behalf of the department and myself, I place on record our appreciation of the encouragement and great interest so readily given us by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Howells, chief sanitary inspector, and Mr. Mason, have achieved a good year's work, and I am grateful to them, as always, for their ready and loyal assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	136	284
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	10
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	152	142	294
Birth Rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	14·6
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1·10)								..	..	16·0
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	15·0
Stillbirths.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	26·50
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)								..	..	23·1
Deaths.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113	96	209
Death rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	10·4
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0·85)								..	..	8·8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	11·7
Infant Mortality.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under one year of age.										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	4 (3)	8 (6)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	4 (3)	8 (6)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets).





CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

					1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
*BIRTH RATE..	..	..	..	..	15.4	13.4	13.9	16.6	15.6	14.6
*DEATH RATE	..	..	..	..	12.1	12.8	12.1	9.9	11.5	10.4
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	..	..			41.0	22.1	10.8	14.9	44.6	27.2
					(13)	(6)	(3)	(5)	(14)	(8)

\*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	10
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	12	30
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	24	52
75 and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	49	104
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113	96	209



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **Medical Officer of Health.**

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951" provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **Sanitary Inspectors.**

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Sanitary Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason. During the year arrangements were made for the Public Health Department to have the services of a fulltime clerk.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

### **Hospitals.**

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955.**

### **Measles.**

There was an epidemic of measles during the year, 446 cases being notified. The only comparable invasion of this magnitude in the last ten years was in 1949 when 492 cases were notified. The epidemic reached its peak between the twenty-second and twenty-ninth weeks, and experienced two secondary peaks in the thirtieth and thirty-first weeks and the thirty-third week.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Nearly half the notified cases occurred in Isleham in the first trimester of the year and sporadic cases have continued in that village throughout the year. There has become apparent no particular reason for this observation, but it is an event not uncommon with this complaint; nor is it remarkable considering that scarlet fever is but one manifestation of the presence of streptococcal infection in the community.

### **Whooping Cough.**

Rather fewer cases were notified this year, 52 as against 86. In May the County Council inaugurated a scheme for whooping cough vaccination. It will be some time before the effects of this very welcome scheme can be evaluated.

### **Dysentery.**

Four cases of Sonne dysentery occurred in one family.

### **Food Poisoning.**

One sporadic case of salmonella typhi-murium occurred.

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

## **PARATYPHOID FEVER.**

One case of this infectious disease was notified in September which on investigation proved to be an isolated incident, the cause of which was undetermined. No spread occurred either within the family or outside it.

Earlier in the year, however, in March, an incident occurred at Soham Grammar School, the origin of which were undetermined. The events were as follows: On March 24th a boy living in Cambridge and attending Soham Grammar School was taken ill at home and subsequently found to be suffering from paratyphoid fever. On March 29th a boy living in Ely and attending Soham Grammar School was taken ill at home with abdominal pain and diarrhoea and admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where subsequently he was found to be suffering from paratyphoid fever. On April 12th a boy living near Swaffham Bulbeck was finally diagnosed as suffering from paratyphoid fever. His only connection with Soham Grammar School was his friendship with a boy who attends that school.



and lives in the same village; there was no evidence that this boy had ever been infected with paratyphoid.

The history of the boy diagnosed on April 12th was that he was taken ill with acute diarrhoea on March 20th, and was treated at home by his family doctor, but owing to various complications and his slow recovery he was admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on April 5th where the diagnosis of paratyphoid fever was established. This boy attended Bottisham Village College; there occurred no incidents at this school nor in the villages from which it derives its population.

It is to be noted that the onset of the illness in this boy antedates that of the other two boys.

The canteen staff at Soham Grammar School all submitted faecal specimens on three occasions and were found to be negative. Lists were made of all the boys attending Soham Grammar School under the names of their general practitioners and these doctors were provided with a list as well as the medical officers of health of the various areas from which the boys come to Soham Grammar School.

Nothing further happened until May 12th when a groundsman at the school had a day's diarrhoea. That same weekend (14th/15th May) a boy living in Ely, and who is a weekly boarder at the school, was taken ill and subsequently found to be suffering from paratyphoid fever.

Immediately plans were made to obtain faecal and urine specimens from every member of the teaching, kitchen, domestic, outside staff, and the kitchen and domestic staff at the boarding house and the boarders. Every assistance was given by the headmaster and his staff and three rounds of specimens were obtained from the above groups. The groundsman, previously referred to, was found to be infected with paratyphoid in the first round. This was the only positive finding. It was subsequently shown that all those infected had been so by *Salmonella paratyphosus B*, dundee var. 1.

Every possible line of investigation was followed but no clue was found which indicated how these cases occurred. The three boys at the school affected were in different age groups, worked in different forms and sat at different tables for lunch. Their only common source of infection could be the groundsman in charge of the games equipment; this postulate neglects the boy who was first affected, who does not attend the school and whose only connection with the school is via an uninfected friend, who in turn has no connection with the other affected boys.

It is of interest to note that later in the year in the City of Cambridge cases occurred due to the same phage type as that causing illness at the school. No connection was established between the two occurrences, and the origins of both remain a mystery.

### **THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.**

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

One case of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Four respiratory cases were transferred to the district, previously notified in other areas. On balance at the end of the year there were two less respiratory and nine less non-respiratory cases on the register.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

#### **Section 47.**

No action was required under this Section during the year.

### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

#### **Section 50.**

No action was required under this Section during the year.



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1955.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic Non-Paralytic	Dysentery	Measles	Totals
Under 1 ..	—	5	—	—	4	9
1 — 2 ..	1	9	—	—	60	70
3 — 4 ..	6	14	—	1	87	108
5 — 9 ..	16	24	—	1	261	302
10 — 14 ..	1	—	—	—	27	28
15 — 24 ..	—	—	—	—	4	4
25 and over	—	—	—	2	3	5
TOTALS ..	24	52	—	4	446	526
1954 TOTALS	2	86	—	—	94	182

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 44 ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
45 — 64 ..	3	—	1	—	—	—	4
65 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ..	5	—	1	1	1	—	8
1954 TOTALS	7	2	10	1	—	1	21

# MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

## Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1945-1955.

[illegible]



**TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.**

		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year .. ..	47	39	13	24	60	63
2.	Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	1	—	1	—	2	—
3.	Cases restored to Register .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
	(a) Transferred from other Districts .. ..	2	2	—	—	2	2
	(b) From Death Returns .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Number of Cases removed from Register .. ..	5	2	3	7	8	9
6.	Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year .. ..	45	39	11	17	56	56

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.  
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS  
CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.55.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	1	4	4	5	5	9	14
15 — 25 ..	4	1	7	5	11	6	17
25 — 35 ..	10	3	17	2	27	5	32
35 — 45 ..	15	—	7	2	22	2	24
45 — 55 ..	8	2	2	1	10	3	13
55 — 65 ..	5	—	—	1	5	1	6
65 and over ..	2	1	2	1	4	2	6
TOTALS ..	45	11	39	17	84	28	112



# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1955:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops	..	..	..	..	..	969
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	34
Fried Fish Shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	..	..	..	..	..	191
Miscellaneous food premises	..	..	..	..	..	212
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	4
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	80
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	67
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	3
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	89
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	127
Infectious Disease enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	117
Premises Disinfected or Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	8
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	534
Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..	..	5
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	2
Movable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	16
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	447
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	10
Housing Act, 1949 (re Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	196
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	93
New drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	16
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	10
New petrol tanks tested	..	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	205
Soham Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	467
TOTAL						3,913

Number of samples taken:—

Water	..	..	..	..	..	85
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	29
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	18

## HOUSING.

### Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936).

Two proposed clearance areas at Bottisham, consisting of twenty-five houses, were submitted to the Ministry for confirmation in 1954; this confirmation is still awaited.

### Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.	<i>No. of Houses</i>
(1) HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 .. .. .	5
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force .. .. .	2
(c) Parts of buildings closed .. .. .	1
(2) HOUSING ACT, 1949.	
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) .. .. .	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) .. .. .	Nil
(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISC. PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.	
Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) .. .. .	9

REPAIRS.	<i>No. of Houses</i>
(4) INFORMAL ACTION.	
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during 1955 as a result of informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. .	10
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.	
(5) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil
(6) HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
Houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	Nil

Number of new permanent houses completed during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority .. .. .	140
(b) By private enterprise .. .. .	35



**HOUSING ACT, 1936—PARTS II AND III.**  
**HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954: Section 1.**

The following is a copy of the return submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 9th January, 1956:—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area	.. ..	6,907
<b>Part 1. The Total problem.</b>		
(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders)	.. ..	500
(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (1)	.. ..	10
<b>Part 2. Orders already made, etc.</b>		
(iii) Number of houses in (1) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority	.. ..	Nil
(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance Areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	.. ..	25
<b>Part 3. Action in the first five years.</b>		
(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years..	.. ..	25
(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	.. ..	13
(vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	.. ..	Nil
(viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years	.. ..	38
(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	.. ..	357

**Council Houses.**

The Council now own 1,614 houses, 879 of which have been built since the end of the war.

Twenty-six temporary hutments at Bottisham and Snailwell continued to be occupied, nine of the dwellings having been closed for human habitation during the year. It is the Council's policy to close these hutments when the opportunity presents itself.

There were 502 outstanding applications for Council houses on the books at the end of the year.

**Housing Improvements—Housing Act, 1949.**

The above Act provides for the payment of grants of up to 50% of the cost of structural improvements consisting of drainage, sanitary fittings, hot and cold water supplies, improved lighting and ventilation, damp-proofing, etc. 196 visits were made during the year to assist and advise owners on improvement schemes which would rank for a grant. Forty one houses were modernised under this scheme during the year and £8,685 was paid to owners in the form of improvement grants.

**Movable Dwellings.**

**Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.**

There are no licensed camping sites in the area.

Licences to station individual caravans granted or renewed	.. ..	15
Applications refused	.. ..	Nil

All applications are carefully scrutinised to ensure compliance with the above Act, and no nuisances were reported during the year.



## WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no significant alteration in the mains water supply arrangements outlined in previous reports, the whole of the district being provided with a mains supply.

Consumption was 143,000,000 gallons, an increase of 19,000,000 over the amount for the previous year. Although the supply has been maintained without any serious difficulty, the continuous increase in consumption year by year, which will undoubtedly be much accelerated with the provision of public sewerage facilities, leaves no room for complacency and necessitates constant vigilance over the existing sources of supply at Chippenham and Swaffham Prior. There is also definite evidence that the existing mains capacity in some parishes, notably Ashley, Cheveley and Woodditton, is inadequate during dry periods when demand reaches its peak. It is unfortunate, however, that a large proportion of the population still carry water from public standpipes in spite of the fact that the main supply passes the sites and could be piped into the dwellings.

### New Works.

In addition to new water mains provided for Council Housing Estates, 3,760 yards of new 3" mains, were laid in the parishes of Fordham, Burwell and Isleham so as to afford a mains supply to isolated farms and for new private building development.

A second larger capacity Booster pump was put in the Duchess Drive Pumping Station and this has considerably improved and safeguarded the position in the "High Level Area."

### Houses to which a Piped Water Supply is available.

Parish	Population (1951 Census)	No. of Dwellings (on Rate Books)	No. of dwellings taking a supply (Rate books)
Ashley .. .. .	462	170	152
Bottisham .. .. .	1,363	293	265
Brinkley .. .. .	169	75	66
Burrough Green .. .. .	283	118	101
Burwell .. .. .	2,304†	822	786
Cheveley .. .. .	1,348	479	202*
Chippenham .. .. .	437	133	103
Dullingham .. .. .	523	212	180
Fordham .. .. .	1,705	657	540
Isleham .. .. .	1,342	500	448
Kennett .. .. .	203	87	55
Kirtling .. .. .	393	137	106
Lode .. .. .	595	228	195
Reach .. .. .	312†	101	86
Snailwell .. .. .	325	105	74
Soham .. .. .	4,865	1,657	1,540
Stetchworth .. .. .	475	202	168
Swaffham Bulbeck .. .. .	611	228	193
Swaffham Prior .. .. .	668†	223	186
Westley Waterless .. .. .	193	56	48
Wicken .. .. .	665	238	192
Woodditton .. .. .	979	375	190*
	20,220	7,096	5,876

†These figures have been adjusted by estimation, the parish of Reach having been introduced since the 1951 census was made.

\*These figures do not include houses which are supplied by the Newmarket Waterworks Company.



**Chlorination.**

All supplies are chlorinated by automatic plant at the source.

**Sampling.**

All public supplies are sampled monthly for bacteriological examination and at quarterly intervals for full chemical analysis.

The following samples were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or Public Analyst for routine examination:—

Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Public Mains ..	59	4 }	85
Private Wells ..	7	15 }	

The unsatisfactory samples from the public supplies were due to minor contamination of taps and a polluted storage tank; repeat samples proved satisfactory. Alternative supplies were provided where private wells were polluted but in one case the bore proved satisfactory after continuous pumping.

## GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

**Shops Act, 1950.**

The department is responsible for inspections under the provisions of Section 31 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating of shops where persons are employed. In the majority of shops a combined inspection can be made to ensure compliance with this Act and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

**Offensive Trades.**

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

A full-time Rodent Officer is employed by the Council on survey and treatment duties under the provisions of the above Act. A close liaison is maintained with the Agricultural Executive Committee who continue to deal with agriculture lands by contract, and this department undertakes work on private and business premises at the rate of 6/- per hour.

**Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

**Eradication of Vermin.**

Advice is given to occupiers on request, and where necessary rooms are sprayed with a modern insecticide, but infestations are generally mild. A number of houses at Fordham, where crickets had invaded the living rooms, were successfully sprayed.

# INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

## Slaughterhouses.

Five licensed slaughterhouses are operating in the area, two at Soham, two at Burwell and one at Fordham. Pigs and sheep only are killed at two of the premises and the bulk of the slaughtering takes place at the Soham slaughterhouses, where daily inspections are essential. A slaughterhouse situated in the Urban District of Newmarket caters for butchers who have no other facilities available.

All animals are inspected in accordance with the methods recommended by the Ministry of Food in memorandum 3/Meat and to enable this important work to proceed systematically and efficiently the inspector must be present soon after slaughter has taken place. The occupiers of slaughterhouses have co-operated remarkably well but sanitary inspectors look forward to regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which will secure the inspection of all animals and not allow the removal of carcasses from the premises three hours after slaughter, whether inspected or otherwise. Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the qualifying certificate of the Royal Society of Health as Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

969 visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the quantity of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

## Meat and Offal Condemned.

						Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Whole Carcase	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	—
Livers	..	..	..	..	..	54	43	8
Half Livers	..	..	..	..	..	30	1	—
Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	23	7	2
Heads	..	..	..	..	..	29	73	—
Kidneys	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	—
Hearts	..	..	..	..	..	—	6	—
Mesentery	..	..	..	..	..	10	3	—
Fore Quarters	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	—
Pleura	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	—
Spleen	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	—
Skirt	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	—

## Miscellaneous.

Beef, bruised	..	..	..	..	..	40 lbs.
Rump and Ribs, Bovine	..	..	..	..	..	179 „



**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part  
during the year 1955.**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .. .. .	500	14	658	2025	—
Number inspected .. .. .	500	14	658	2025	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	82	—	16	54	—
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	16·12	—	2·41	2·81	—
<b>Tuberculosis only—</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	1	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	46	—	—	72	—
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis	9·2	7·1	—	3·60	—
<b>Cysticercosis—</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condem- ned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—

**Registered Food Premises.**

64 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the following purpose:—

(a) Sausage and cooked meat premises .. .. .	14
(b) Fried fish shops .. .. .	6
(c) Sale of Ice Cream .. .. .	43
(d) Manufacture of Ice Cream .. .. .	1

191 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

**Ice Cream.**

One ice cream manufacturer is registered and although his premises are small, the equipment is of modern design and samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

90 visits were made to ice cream premises and eighteen samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue examination; 17 were reported as Grade 1 and one as Grade 2.

**Milk.**

2 dairies and 9 distributors are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 4 inspections of dairies were made and the premises were found to be satisfactory.

Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and we are informed by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee that 60 dairy farms are registered in this area; 29 of these are "Tuberculin Tested" herds.

### **Licences.**

#### **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Dealers' Licences issued .. .. .	8
Supplementary Licences issued .. .. .	3

#### **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Dealers' Licences issued .. .. .	3
Supplementary Licences issued .. .. .	2

### **Sampling.**

Twenty-seven samples of pasteurised milk were collected from schools and all these were reported by the Public Health Laboratory as conforming to the standard of pasteurised milk. Two samples of pasteurised milk were collected from a dairy and in course of delivery; these were found to be satisfactory. A complaint relating to the presence of brownish extraneous matter in a bottle of pasteurised milk was investigated and submitted to the Public Analyst. The milk passed the phosphatase and methylene blue tests but the Public Analyst reported as follows, "whilst the extraneous matter (charred milk) found in this sample may be considered harmless, its presence in milk is unsightly and therefore objectionable." The manager of the dairy concerned was cooperative and no further complaints were received.

### **Licensed Premises.**

Eighty inspections of public houses were made during the year and major improvements to sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities at seven premises were supervised.

### **Food Shops, Cafes, etc.**

Regular inspections have been made of premises where foodstuffs are prepared, stored or exposed for sale and 10 tins of various foodstuffs were condemned.

### **Byelaws.**

The byelaws made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to hygiene in food premises, are strictly enforced and the new Food Hygiene Regulations should do much to secure a better standard.

### **Bakehouses.**

Thirty-four visits have been made to the 16 bakehouse premises in the area. These premises will all require improvements to comply with the current regulations.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933—1954.**

Thirty licences were issued to slaughtermen. The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, came into operation on the 5th July, 1954, and under the provisions of this Act each licence specifies the types of animals which may be slaughtered and the instrument to be used.

### **Knacker's Yard.**

One licensed Knacker's Yard is situated in a remote part of the district where the creation of a nuisance is most unlikely. The knacker meat is sterilized on the premises and fed to the owner's stock.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

Continuous and satisfactory progress was maintained throughout the year on the new sewerage scheme at Soham and by the end of the year, with the exception of the installation of pumps and machinery, house connections and numerous minor items (in the nature of finishing work), the whole of the contract works had been substantially completed.



A Survey was made of the premises in the built-up area of Soham to obtain up-to-date information on the number of properties where occupiers discharge sewage to the old and very unsatisfactory road drains. The result was as follows:—

- (a) Number of premises visited .. .. 527
- (b) Number of premises discharging sewage to road drains .. .. 375
- (c) Premises in (b) having water closets .. 242

These premises will be connected to the new sewer as soon as possible and it is anticipated a considerable number of house drains will have to be relaid.

A tender, in the sum of £38,644 was accepted for the provision of sewers and two pumping stations in the parish of Bottisham, discharging to existing ex-War Department treatment works in that Parish. The Parish of Bottisham forms a part of a scheme which includes the villages of Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck and when the Bottisham part of this scheme is complete it is hoped that the Council will be able to proceed with the other two villages.

Eighteen small sewerage treatment plants on Council Housing Estates and three village treatment works, all maintained by the Surveyor's Department, have been kept in satisfactory working order by regular supervision and cleansing.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Household rubbish and salvage is collected by two vehicles manned by a foreman, two drivers and six labourers who are also responsible for the maintenance of two refuse tips and paper baling, under the overall supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Disposal is by controlled tipping at Burwell Broads and Fordham, and wet tipping is carefully avoided. The Council's Rodent Officer makes frequent inspections of the pits to ensure proper control over rats and it was found necessary to deal with an infestation of crickets at the Fordham pit.

Weekly Collection				Fortnightly Collection							
Area		No. of Houses		Area		No. of Houses		Area		No. of Houses	
Burwell .. ..		822		Ashley .. ..		170		Lode .. ..		228	
Fordham .. ..		657		Bottisham .. ..		293		Reach .. ..		101	
Soham .. ..		1657		Brinkley .. ..		75		Snailwell .. ..		105	
Area adjacent to New-				Burrough Green ..		118		Stetchworth .. ..		202	
market Town ..		357		Cheveley .. ..		238		Swaffham Bulbeck		228	
				Chippenham .. ..		133		Swaffham Prior ..		223	
				Dullingham .. ..		212		Westley .. ..		56	
				Isleham .. ..		500		Wicken .. ..		238	
				Kennett .. ..		87		Woodditton .. ..		259	
				Kirtling .. ..		137					
Total = 3493 houses				Total = 3603 houses							
= 49.2% of whole district				= 50.8% of whole district							

A small number of houses in the Padney and Soham Fen area are dealt with monthly, along with a few isolated dwellings in other parts of the district. 766 loads were collected during the year, 2621 gallons of petrol were used and the vehicles travelled 15,515 miles.

Salvaged Materials.

Material	1955			1954		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .. .. .	108	8	0	882	8	1
Ferrous Metals .. .. .	15	14	2	62	13	11
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .	2	12	1	56	2	3
Rags and Sacking .. .. .	2	8	3	67	2	11
Sundries .. .. .				18	13	1
TOTALS .. .. .	129	3	2	1087	0	3
				105	4	3
				732	2	0

At the end of the year, the following prices were being obtained for scrap materials:—

Mixed Waste Paper .. .. .	£8	0s.	0d.	per ton
Cast Iron .. .. .	£5	10s.	0d.	„ „
Light Iron .. .. .	£2	5s.	0d.	„ „
Lead .. .. .	£60	0s.	0d.	„ „
Brass .. .. .	£130	0s.	0d.	„ „
Rags .. .. .	£32	0s.	0d.	„ „
Sacking .. .. .	£7	0s.	0d.	„ „

Nightsoil Collection.

The Council has not undertaken the collection of nightsoil but a contractor is available to householders by private arrangement.

Cesspool Emptying.

A “Shelvoke & Drewry” 1,100-gallon cesspool emptier and two men are employed full time on the emptying of cesspools and septic tanks. A third man is occasionally diverted from refuse collection to cesspool emptying on the larger estates and this procedure has been found profitable. Private householders are charged at the rate of £2 0s. 0d. for the first load cleared and £1 0s. 0d. for each subsequent load on the same date. The housing revenue account is debited at the rate of £1 10s. 0d. and 15s. 0d. for first and subsequent loads respectively to cover the cost of emptying Council house cesspools, no charge being made on the general rate for this service.

No. of cesspools emptied .. .. .	1,386
No. of loads .. .. .	2,450

243 of the above cesspools were on private premises and the remainder on Council house estates.

The vehicle covered a distance of 8,932 miles in the course of this work and consumed 1,638 gallons of petrol.

Owing to the pressure of work it has been necessary to engage a private contractor on numerous occasions to assist with cesspool emptying on Council estates.

The disposal of cesspool contents still presents a formidable problem, but the Bottisham sewage works has been extremely useful in this connection.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power) .. ..	4	5	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power) .. ..	59	84	7	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	63	89	7	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	7	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	7	6	—	—	—









